

**Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch Meeting**  
**Held at Brews Brothers on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Attendees:** Stuart Clift, Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, Colin Campbell, Sam Lucas, Rory Audsley-Spence, John Dunstan, Dominic Haythorne.

- 1) **Apologies for absence** - Moira Walter, John Williams, Jim Power, Ros & Russ Briggs, John Ward, Allister Ferguson, Jo Dunstan.

Members are asked to forward apologies for absence direct to the Branch Secretary [secretary@newark.camra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@newark.camra.org.uk)

- 2) **Review of Actions from Previous Minutes** - The action log was updated (see below).
- 3) **Chair's report** – Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and The Brews Brothers was thanked for providing the venue.

The special CAMRA bulletin from CAMRA Chairman, Ash Corbett-Collins relating to the 2025 financial situation, was discussed. Richard explained that as Nottinghamshire Area Organiser, he has had a conversation with the Regional Director about the contents of the email. This is an immediate financial issue and the long term financial position should be OK. He confirmed that this will not affect the budget for our winter beer festival and as a branch, we have not retained any unnecessary funds.

4) **Treasurer's Report**

- Funding for Not the Newark Beer Festival has concluded. Of the £1,248 funds secured (£1,000 from HQ and £248 from the old PINT fund), £974 was spent on banners, flyers, the beer list, a contribution for beermats, T-shirts and advertising in the branch magazine. £274 has been returned to Camra HQ.
- Revenue from advance ticket sales for the Winter Beer Festival continues to come from HQ, on a fortnightly basis.
- The first advance from for the Winter Beer Festival has been received, this will cover the cost of glasses which have been ordered.
- Bank and petty cash have been reconciled. Given the proximity of the Winter Beer Festival to the year end, the accounts will look rather different this year. A request for the appointment of an Examiner of Accounts was made and Rory Audsley-Spence agreed to take on this role. The year end is 31<sup>st</sup> October, and accounts will be required to be produced and audited in time for the AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**Social Media** – Nothing to report.

5) **Secretary's report**

**Champion Beer of Britain Nominations** - Nominations have opened for the Champion Beer of Britain 2027. The Champion Beer of Britain is one of the most prestigious beer competitions in the world. It is the ultimate honour for UK brewers and has helped put many into the national spotlight. The competition starts with individual nominations from CAMRA members and tasting panel nominations, then area competitions. Read more and vote [here](#).

- 6) **Membership/Young Members** – no report. In the absence of our Membership Secretary, it was reported that the current membership was 502, down on last month.

## 7) **Vice Chair / WhatPub / Web /Tasting Panels**

- **Tasting Panels** - Rob Green, East Midlands Deputy Regional Director, is hoping to set up a joint tasting panel for the East Midlands Region and is arranging a training session in November. Peter Harris has completed the relevant training and would like to be included and Richard Trafford and Rory Audsley-Spence have expressed an interest in taking part in a training course. John and Jo Dunstan have also expressed an interest in joining the tasting panel. Tasting Panels are responsible for tasting beers that are regularly brewed within the branch region.
- **Pub Database** – an update has been received in relation to the Conservative Club (known as the Belvedere Club) to say that it now serves two rotating cask ales.

## 8) **Pub of the Year (POTY) & Good Beer Guide (GBG)**

**GBG** – Reminder given that the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) should be used as a “significant” factor when determining GBG entries. Richard explained the issues this posed for the branch bearing in mind that very few scores for local pubs are being submitted. He has analysed the current NBSS scores for the past 6 months and so far less than 1% of members have submitted NBSS scores. Members are asked to regularly enter beer scores for pubs they visit. These are entered via the CAMRA website [Find Pubs & Clubs to Visit - CAMRA - The Campaign for Real Ale](#). Why you should score your beer [YouTube video](#)

**Branch Pub of the Year and Cider & Perry Pub of the Year 2026** - Newark CAMRA will soon commence judging for these awards. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the judging and also for nominations for both awards.

Branch Members can nominate a pub with the proviso that no member may submit a vote for any establishment in which they have a vested interest in any way whether as a result of:

- i) Ownership or management of the establishment – whether as owner, shareholder tenant, manager or otherwise.
- ii) Responsibility for the beer/cider ordering of a club of which they are a member.
- iii) Employment in the establishment as bar staff, kitchen staff or cleaners (full or part time) and whether paid or unpaid.

Volunteers to join the judging panel should be CAMRA members and regular drinkers of cask ale or real cider/perry. You must be available to visit all of the nominated pubs at least twice and, for POTY, judges are asked to enter beer scores on the CAMRA website for each visit (see item above). Judging takes place between October 2025 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

If you would like to join either of the **judging panels** or make a **nomination** for the Branch **Pub Of The Year / Branch Cider & Perry Pub Of The Year** please email [POTY@newark.camra.org.uk](mailto:POTY@newark.camra.org.uk). The closing date for nominations and for volunteers to be an assessor is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025. In both cases members are asked to include their name, email address and CAMRA membership number in their email.

## **Branch ordering of The Good Beer Guide 2026**

Worksop Branch have agreed to order these on behalf of our Branch, those members who have requested a copy (John Williams, Richard, Colin, Sam & John D) are asked to pay £8 to the Branch Treasurer in order that he can transfer the funds to the Worksop Branch.

- 9) **Cider Update** – The branch are holding a cider/perry information and tasting event. Carolyn had spoken to Jason at the Organ Grinder who is happy for this to take place following our October Branch Meeting being held there on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**. There will be a small charge for the ciders tasted, payable on the night.

- 10) **Pub Protection Officer** – no report
- 11) **Brewery Liaison Officers(BLOs)**  
John Ward (Milestone) – no report  
Allister Ferguson (Cat Asylum) – no report  
Jim Mason (Jacaranda) – updated provided at August Meeting
- 12) **Beer Festival** – A further publicity push will be taking place and more flyers are being ordered. Members interested in volunteering to assist at the Winter Festival can find information and staffing form [here](#). There will be acoustic music and a quiz – details have been released via Facebook. [Tickets](#) are now on sale for the event through CAMRA HQ's system. CAMRA members will receive a complimentary half pint token on production of a valid membership card. More information can be found here: [Newark Beer Festival 2025](#)
- 13) **Forthcoming Social Events**
- **Saturday 27th of September** - trip to Beeston to visit The Crown Inn and several other fantastic pubs (Victoria, Star, Boat & Horses etc). Train from Newark Castle at 12.02 returning on the 18.24 getting into Newark for 19.02. No need to book, the contact on the day is Allister Ferguson Social Secretary 07772984352.
  - **Proposed Socials to Louth and 8 Sail Brewery** - Over the next few months, active members will be busy with judging for POTY and organising the Beer Festival. As a result, it was agreed that the two items relating to proposed socials to Louth and 8 Sail Brewery be put on hold until the new year with a view to a possible social taking place in the spring of 2026. Also investigate the possibility of running socials jointly with the Worksop branch.

If you have any suggestions for future social events please email Allister [socials@newark.camra.org.uk](mailto:socials@newark.camra.org.uk)

### ***Forthcoming Festivals etc***

- **19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September.** Bingham Beer & Cider Festival., 5pm to 11pm. Buttercross Memorial, Market Square, Bingham. Buy tickets for both nights and get a free pint. <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/Binghamcommunityevents/1813689>
- **2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October.** “Clockfest”, Beer Under the Clock, Retford, with up to 20 new and interesting Beers available.
- **8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October.** [Nottingham Robin Hood Beer & Cider Festival](#) Trent Bridge Cricket Ground.
- **23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October.** [Grantham Beer Festival](#) St Wulfram's Church, Grantham  
**Branch members will be going on Thursday 23/10/25, taking the 12.56 train from Newark Northgate, returning at 18.29.**
- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.** [Newark Beer & Cider Festival](#) (Winter Edition) Newark Town Hall, Market Place. 10.30am to 4pm and 5pm to 10.30. £5 per session. 50 Beers & 15 Ciders. Live Music, Quizzes & Food. More information and advance tickets at <https://newark.camra.org.uk/beer-festival/>

*Please note that events are subject to change – check websites/socials for regular updates.*

#### 14) Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings

- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October** – The Organ Grinder, Portland Street Newark NG24 4XF @7.30pm.  
This meeting will also be a branch social with an initial amount of branch business taking place followed by time to give those attending the opportunity to join in a cider tasting event (small charge payable on the night).
- **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** Branch Annual General Meeting – to be held at the Ram, Castle Gate, Newark NG24 1AZ @7.30 pm.
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas social 7pm Fox and Crown. Allister to circulate menu etc.
- **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026**– The Prince Rupert, Newark @7.30 pm.

#### 15) Any Other Business - none

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

#### Newark CAMRA Action Log 2025

Date	Owner	ACTION	Update	Date Closed
13/8/24	AF	Richard reported that a former member of our branch, who has moved to Louth had invited members to Louth for a social. ACTION - details passed to Allister to investigate public transport/minibus options.	10/9/25 - See item 13. On hold until the new year with a view to a possible social taking place in the spring of 2026. Also investigate possibility of running a social jointly with the Worksop branch.	
13/8/24	AF	The possibility of a visit to 8 Sail Brewery has been looked into. The return train costs approx. £30. Branch members were interested in visiting the brewery. ACTION - Allister to investigate all transport/minibus options	10/9/25 - See item 13. On hold until the new year with a view to a possible social taking place in the spring of 2026. Also investigate possibility of running a social jointly with the Worksop branch.	
12/7/25	RG All	Rob Green (RG) confirmed that he is hoping to set up an East Midlands regional Tasting Panel and will be contacting branches about this soon. ACTION - Any branch member interested in taking part in tasting panels to pass their details to the Branch Secretary.	10/9/25 - See item 7 Richard Trafford, Peter Harris and Rory Audsley-Spence , John & Jo Dunstan have already expressed an interest in taking part. Training being arranged for November	
12/7/25	RG	It was asked whether the branch could set up a group for active members to use to pass on updates (ie Groups.io) Rob Green confirmed that this would not be possible under GDPR.ACTION – RG agreed to clarify this with the RD.	10/9/25 – no further update 13/8/25 - Rob Green has reported that he is still awaiting answers on this.	
8/1/25	RT JD	Vice chair to contact CAMRA HQ to see if there is a corporate MS Teams licence that can be used. If not, investigate obtaining a licence for the branch. Treasurer to carry out a cost benefit analysis for this.	On-going	

Closed items				
12/7/25	CG All	Branches can now submit orders for the Good Beer Guide 2026 (in packs of 10). Prices for branches is £8 ACTION: Branch Secretary to contact North Notts branch to see if they would like to join in with the order. ACTION - John W, Richard, Colin, Sam & John D to pay £8 to the Branch Treasurer asap in order that he can transfer the funds over to the Worksop branch.	10/9/25 -See Item 8 - Worksop Branch have agreed to order these on behalf of our Branch, those members who have requested a copy (John Williams, Richard, Colin, Sam & John D). are asked to pay £8 to the Branch Treasurer asap in order that he can transfer funds to the Worksop Branch.	10/9/25
12/7/25	RG	Concern was expressed that there was not an option for members to unsubscribe from receiving updates from HQ about raffles. ACTION – Rob Green agreed to raise this at the next Volunteer & Member Experience Meeting.	13/8/25 - Rob Green confirmed members should unsubscribe from receiving Fundraising Information in the CAMRA members area of the website. Notices about lotteries may still come through via Volunteer Bulletins. RG is raising this with Val Langford at HQ	13/8/25
21/6/25	AF	Allister to arrange a venue and date for the Christmas social in December.	13/8/25 arranged for 19/12/25 @ Fox & Crown, 7pm	13/8/25
12/7/25	CG	A suggestion was made that the branch hold a cider/perry information and tasting event. ACTION - Carolyn to contact the Organ Grinder to see if we could hold an event as part of our branch meeting there on 7/10/25.	Carolyn had spoken to Jason at the Organ Grinder who is happy for this to be held. There will be a small charge for ciders tasted payable on the night.	13/8/25
8/1/25	CG	Any branch member interested in taking part in tasting panels to pass their details to the Branch Secretary by 28/2/25	Expression of interest received from Rory. Richard to speak to Rob Green who is co-ordinating this for the East Mids	12/3/25
12/3/25	AF	Allister and Andy to liaise with the Royal Oak at Collingham and Cat Asylum Brewery to see if a social/branch meeting could be arranged for June.	12/3/25 - Cat Asylum Brewery have confirmed we can visit on 21/6/25. Meeting to be held at the Royal Oak Collingham beforehand. 12/2/25 - No action taken – AF to action prior to the March meeting	12/3/25
12/2/25	SL	Once all of the POTY presentations had taken place, the Newark Advertiser should be contacted to ask if they will run an article. Sam to draft a suitable article for submission to the Advertiser.	12/4/25 – Sam has sent a report and photographs to the Advertiser. 12/3/25 – SL reported that this will take place once all presentations have taken place.	12/4/25
8/1/25	JD	Branch members to send articles for inclusion in the Branch Magazine to John Dunstan by 31/3/25 <a href="mailto:treasurer@newarkcamra.org.uk">treasurer@newarkcamra.org.uk</a>	1/5/25 – Magazine published 12/4/25 – John confirmed articles have been received and he would be contacting publishers in the coming week 12/3/25 – Members to send articles to John asap in order to get magazine published in April.	1/5/25
12/3/25	JM	Jim Mason agreed to contact Jacaranda Brewery to see if they wanted to join the branch at our meeting on 13/8/25 at the Full Moon, Morton.	21/6/25 – Jim confirmed that Jacaranda Brewery are hoping to join us for our Branch meeting in August.	21/6/25